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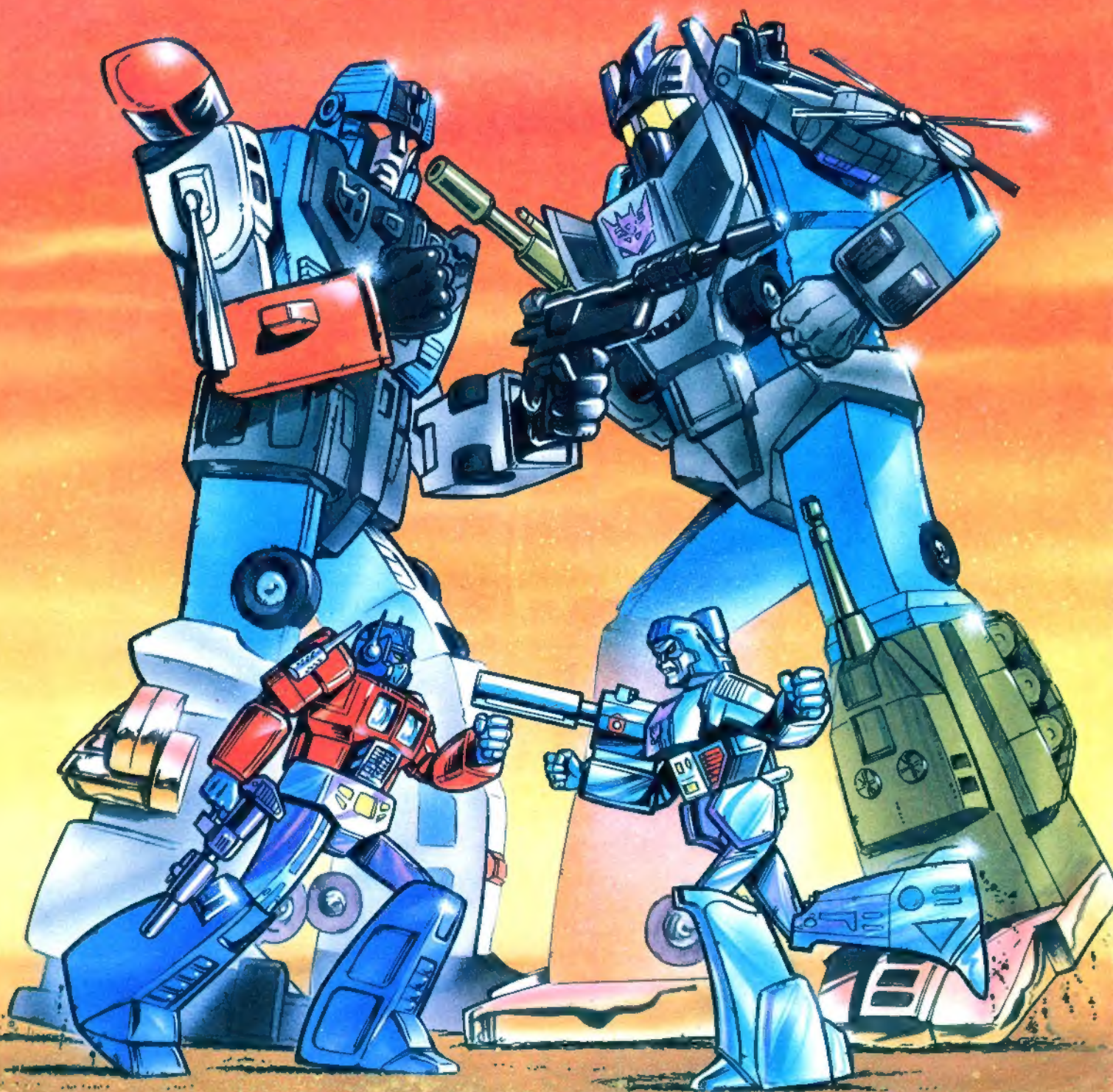
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21st Mar.87
No 105 32p
U.S. \$1.00 CAN. \$1.50

THE TRANSFORMERS

HEROIC AUTOBOT

TM

DEADLOCK!



TRANSFORMERS™

AFTERDEATH!

OUCH!
THAT
HURTS!

DIE, GREASE-
SUCKING
DO-GOODER!

ZIP

ZIP

ZIP

ZIP

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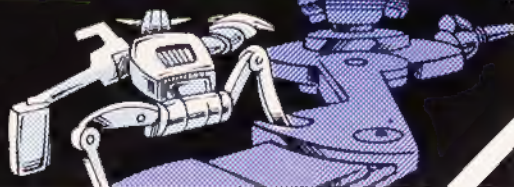
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YOU HAVE BEEN
HUNTED DOWN BY
AND DESTROYED
BY THE HORDES
OF HAZZAK.
HERO.

HAVE
A NICE
DAY.



GAME OVER

LOST
AGAIN?

YEAH, AND
I HAD CREATED
SUCH A GOOD
CHARACTER, TOO,
MARGARET--
FORMULAK THE
COMPUZOID.



I'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WASTE
SO MUCH TIME HERE, PLAYING THESE MEANINGLESS
COMPUTER GAMES, ETHAN ZACHARY!

WELL, FOR
ONE THING, YOU
CAN'T FIND ANY
VIDEO GAME ARCADES
THAT OFFER *THIS*--
THE SPECTRAMAX 1000,
THE BEST COMPUTER
VIDEO SCREEN IN
THE WORLD!

GAME OVER

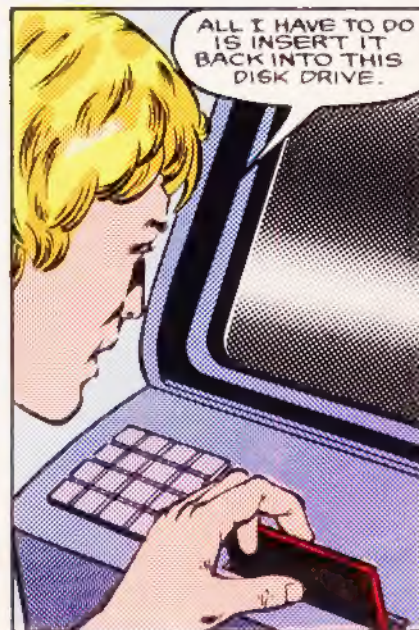
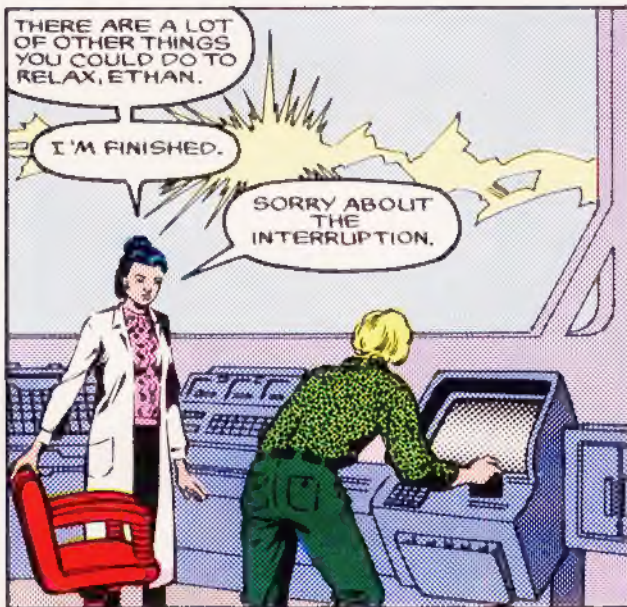
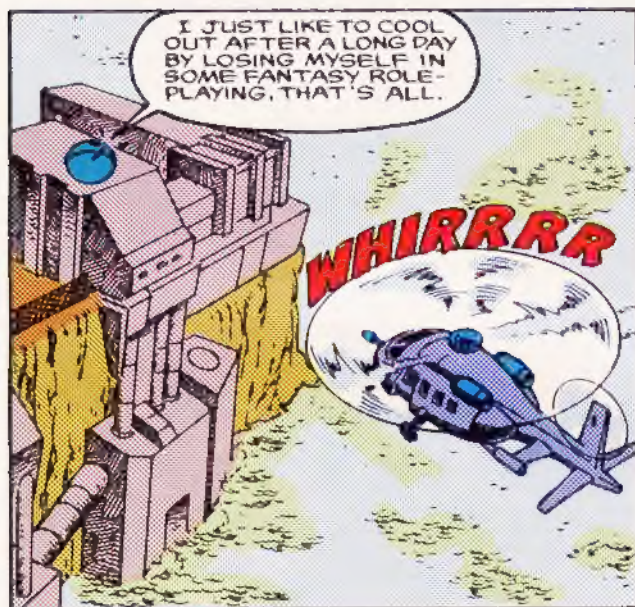
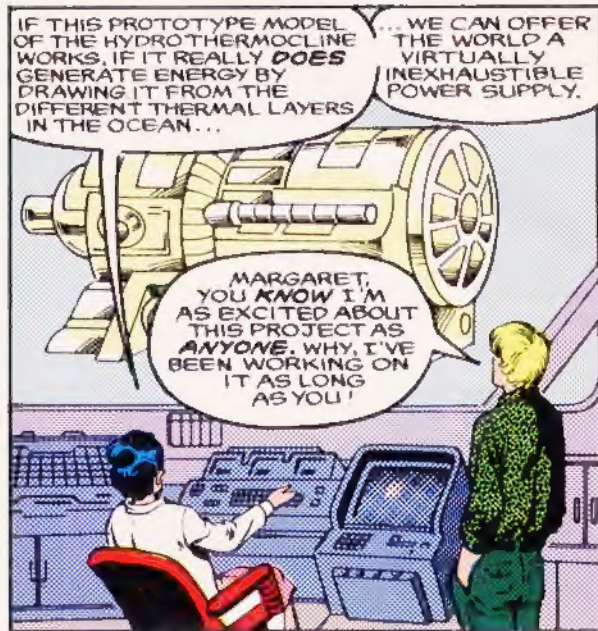
WHICH IS WHY
I'M HERE. EVEN THOUGH
IT'S AFTER OFFICIAL
WORK HOURS, I HAVE TO
USE THE SPECTRAMAX
TO RUN SOME SIMULATION
TESTS ON THE
HYDROTHERMOCLINE.

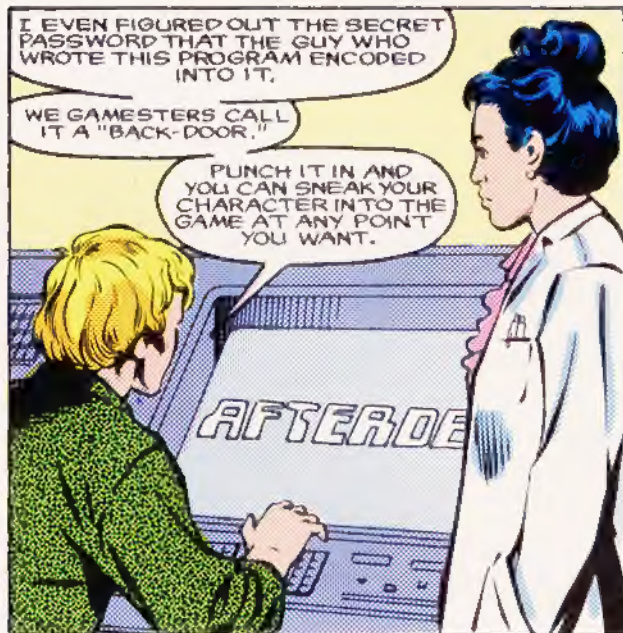
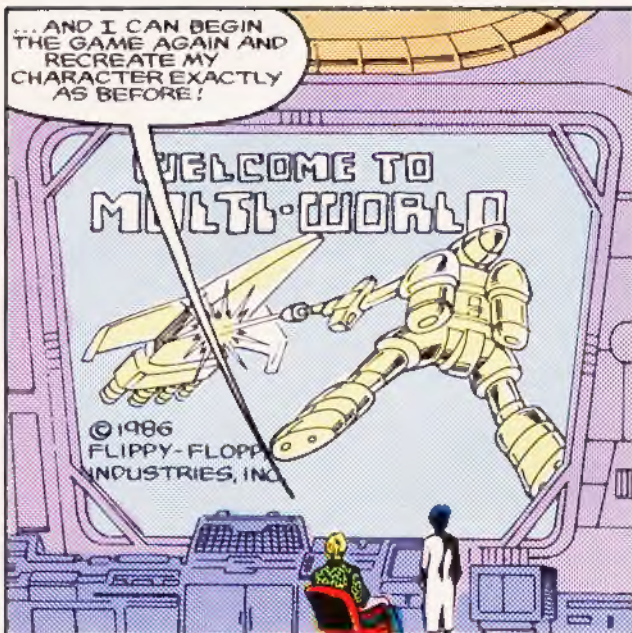
SO IF YOU DON'T MIND...

BE MY
GUEST.

THANK
YOU.







WITHIN A CAVE AT THE BASE OF MOUNT ST. HILARY IN OREGON'S CASCADE RANGE LIES AN OBJECT STRIKINGLY AT ODDS WITH ITS NATURAL SURROUNDINGS.

IN FACT, IT IS STRIKINGLY AT ODDS WITH ANYTHING ON EARTH.

IT IS THE ARK, THE CRIPPLED ALIEN SPACE-CRAFT THAT SERVES AS HOME BASE FOR THE NOBLE AUTOBOTS...

I SEE IT!

IT'S THERE ALL RIGHT, OPTIMUS PRIME-- JUST AS YOU SUSPECTED!

I'LL HAVE IT EXTRACTED IN A MOMENT, DON'T WORRY.

I'VE ALWAYS HAD COMPLETE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR TECHNICAL ABILITIES, WHEELJACK.

JUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO REMOVE ANY OF MY BRAIN MICROCHIPS ALONG WITH IT!

NOT EVEN ONE!

THERE IT IS, COMMANDER-- A CEREBRO-SHELL!

A "BUG"!

THAT EXPLAINS HOW OUR ENEMIES, THE DECEPTICONS, WERE ABLE TO ANTICIPATE OUR MOVES SO WELL, LATELY.

SOMEHOW THEY GOT THE "BUG" INSIDE MY BRAIN AND WERE LISTENING TO EVERY THOUGHT I HAD!*

* THE DECEPTICON BOMBSHELL PLANTED THE "BUG" IN TRANSFORMERS # 91.

NOT ANY MORE. I DEACTIVATED IT.

BUT THIS CAN WORK TO OUR ADVANTAGE. WITH SOME MINOR ADJUSTMENTS WE CAN LISTEN TO THE LISTENERS-- GIVE THE DECEPTICONS A TASTE OF THEIR OWN LUBRICANT!

MINUTES LATER...

...YOUR SCOUTING OF FLESHLING ENERGY INSTALLATIONS HAS PAID OFF, VORTEX! COMBATICONS, WE LEAVE FOR THE HYDROTHERMOCLINE PLANT IMMEDIATELY!

SET COORDINATES FOR THE OREGON COAST...

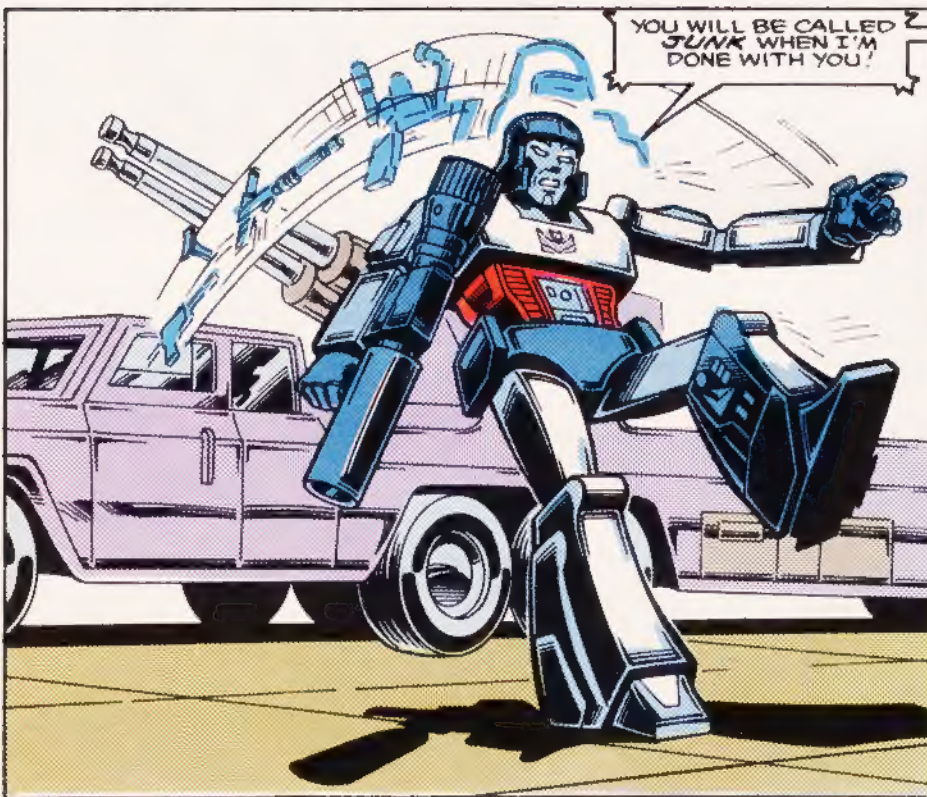
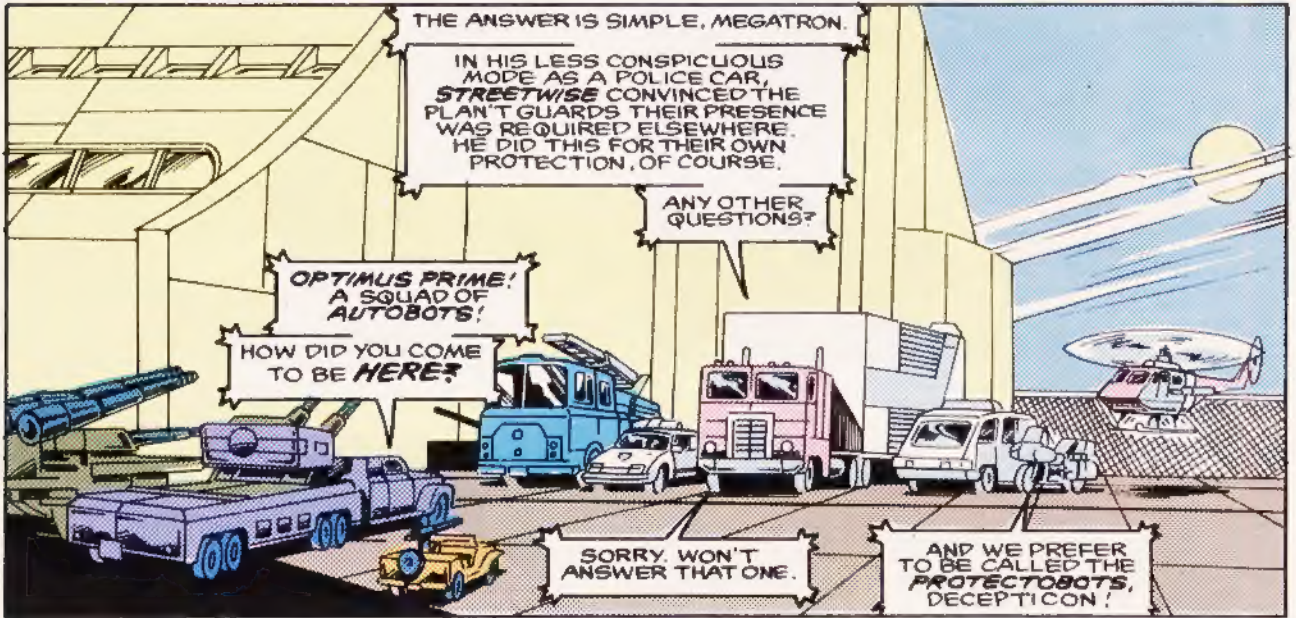
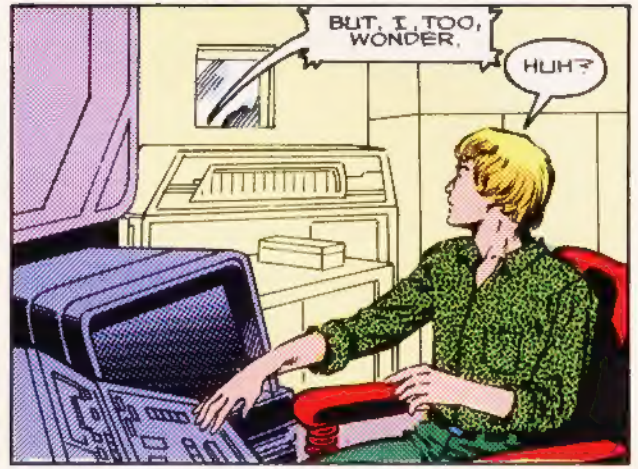
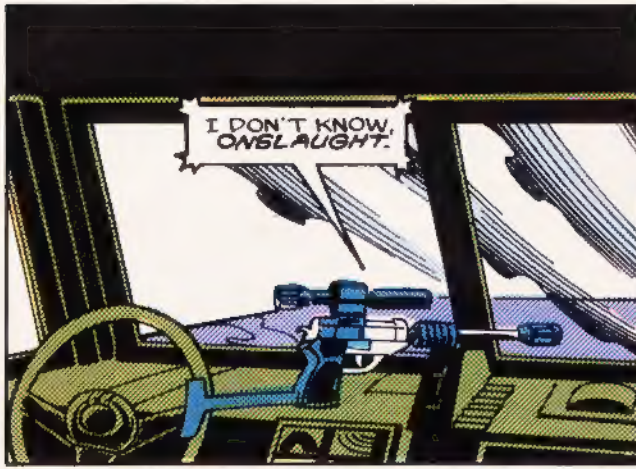
SOUNDS LIKE WE'VE TUNED INTO MEGATRON'S VOICE AND A DECEPTICON ATTACK PLAN, WHEELJACK.

LET'S LISTEN FURTHER.

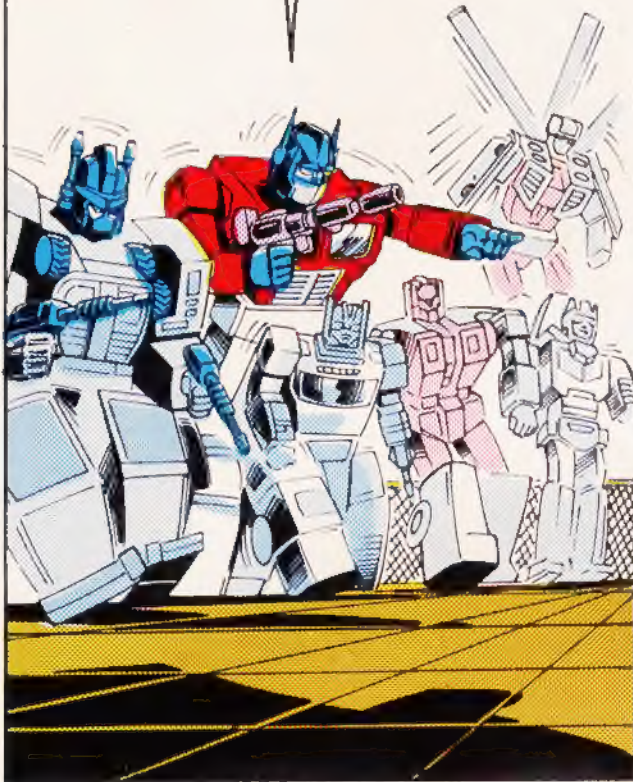
LATER THAT NIGHT...

WE ANTICIPATED INTERFERENCE FROM FLESHLING GUARDS, MEGATRON. WHERE ARE THEY?

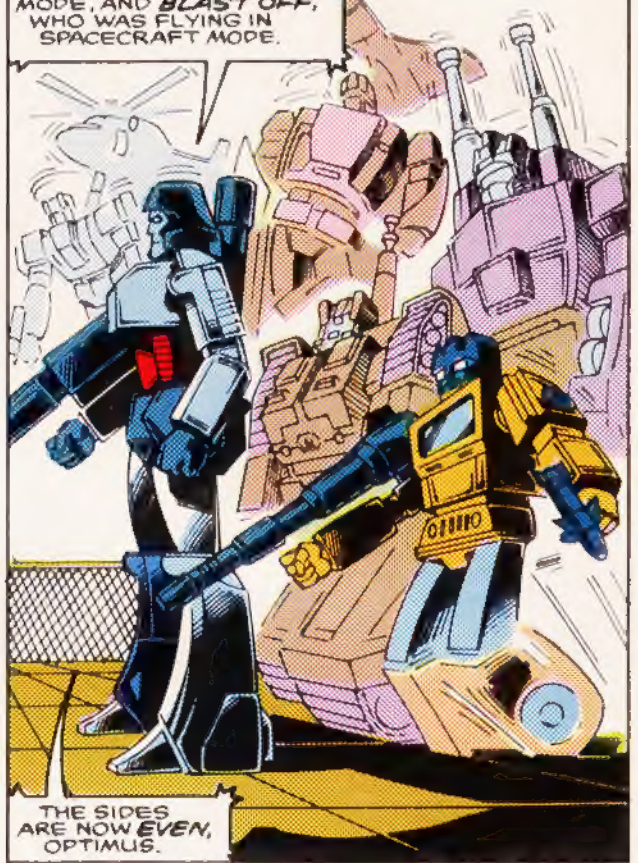
BRRRAKKKK



WE OUTNUMBER
YOU SIX TO
FOUR, MEGATRON.
GIVE UP!

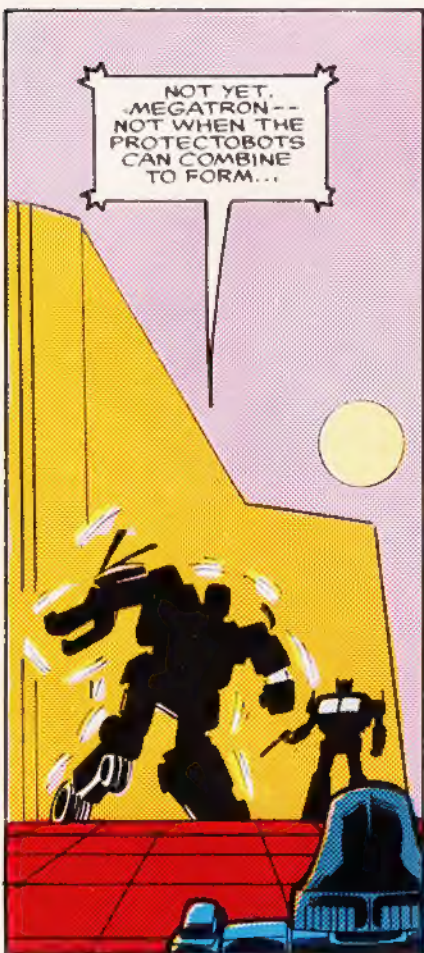


PERHAPS YOU FORGOT
TO COUNT VORTEX, WHO
WAS HOVERING OVER-
HEAD IN HELICOPTER
MODE, AND **BLAST OFF**,
WHO WAS FLYING IN
SPACECRAFT MODE.

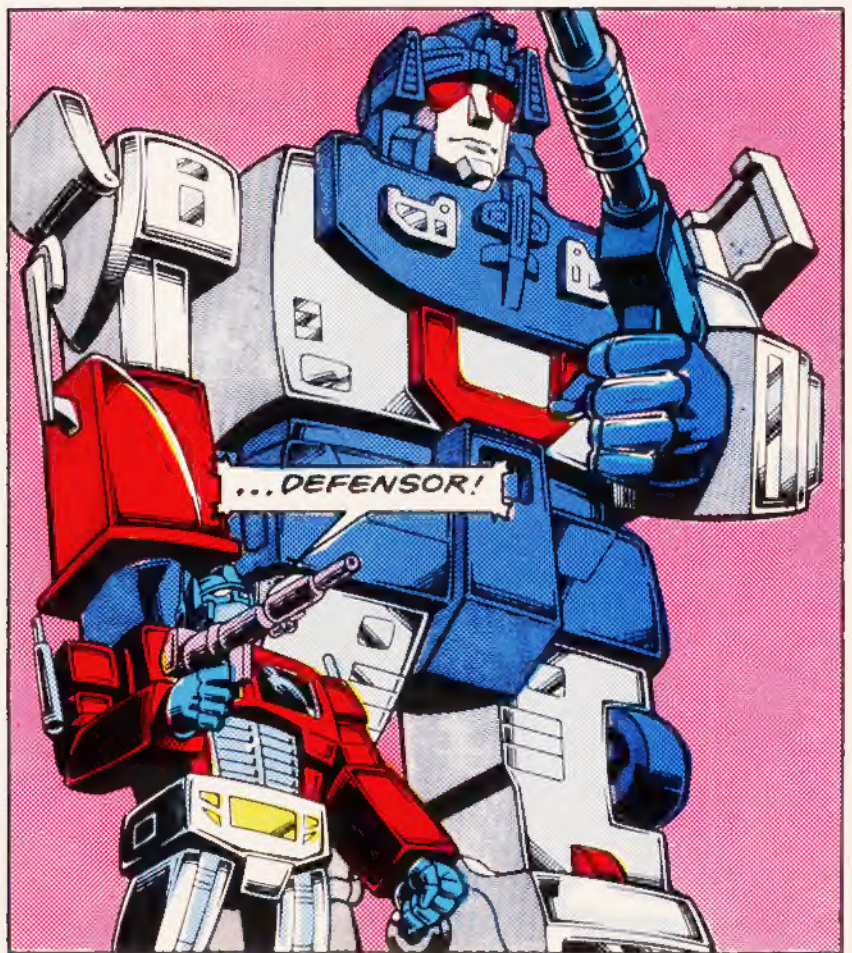


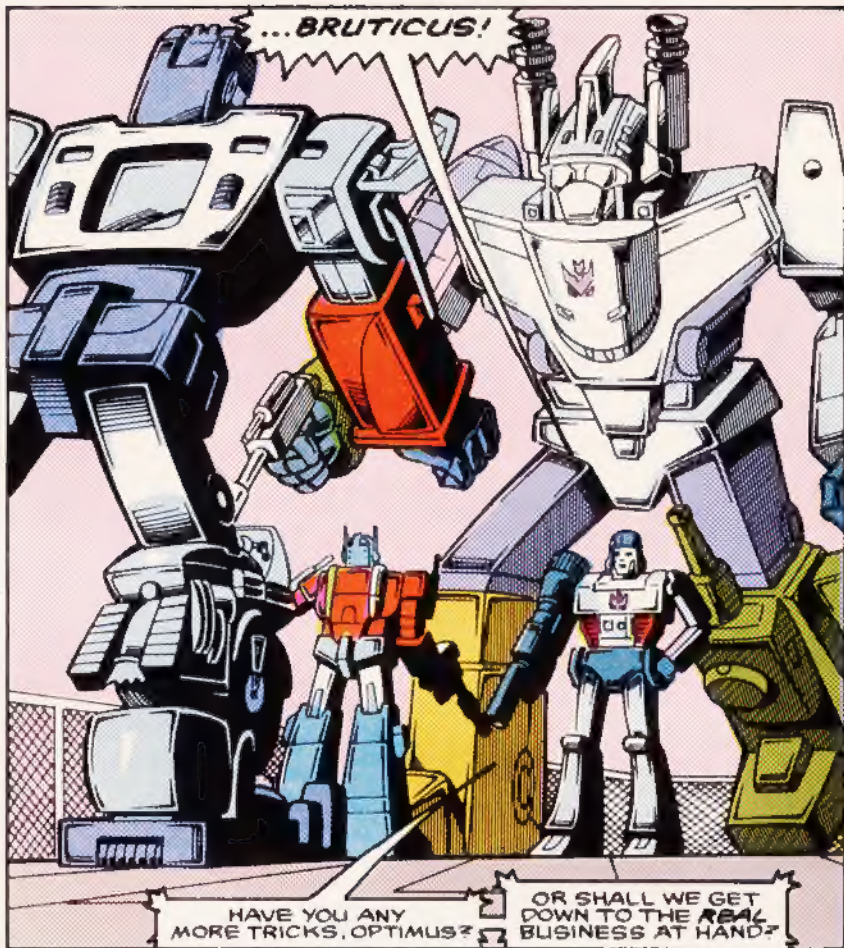
THE SIDES
ARE NOW **EVEN**,
OPTIMUS.

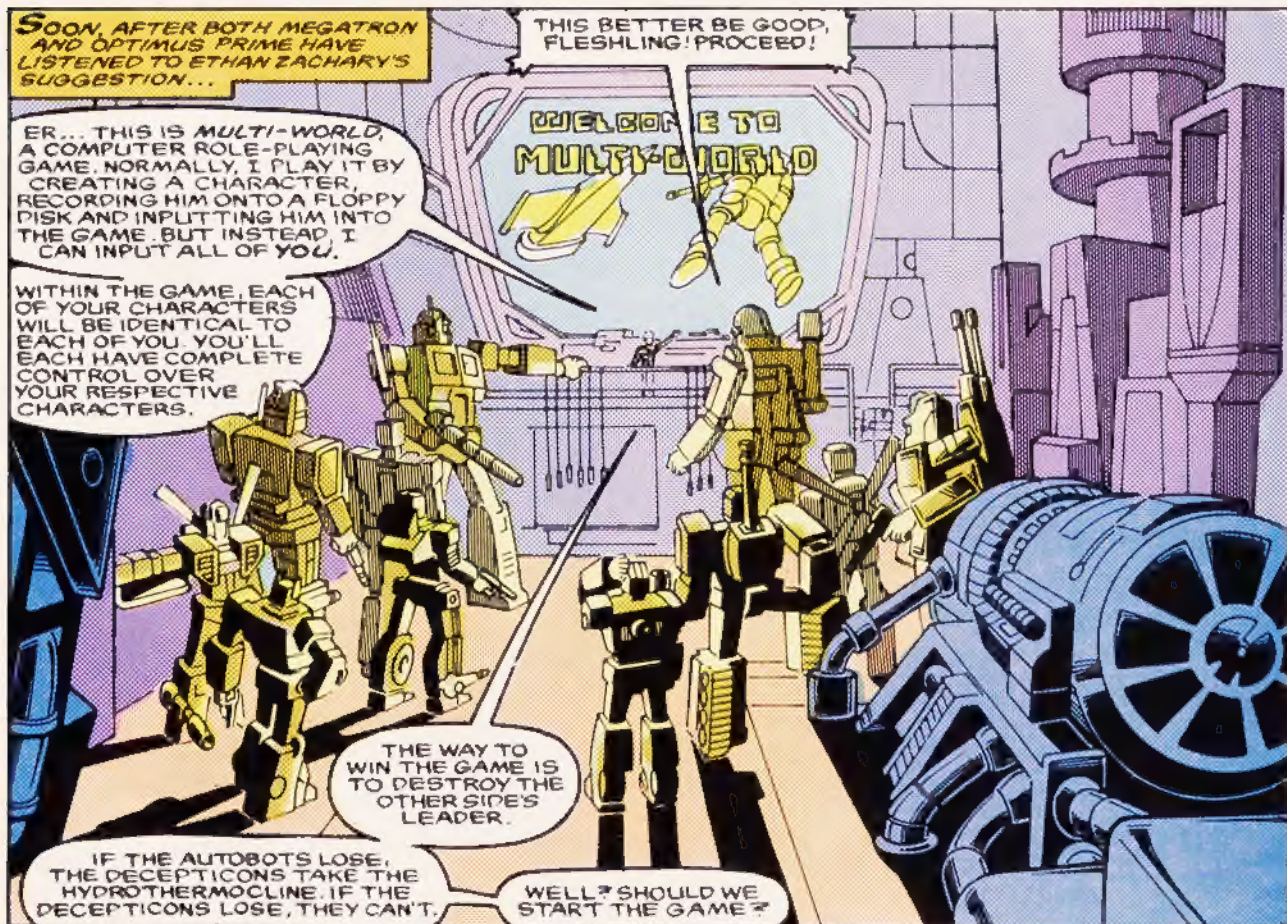
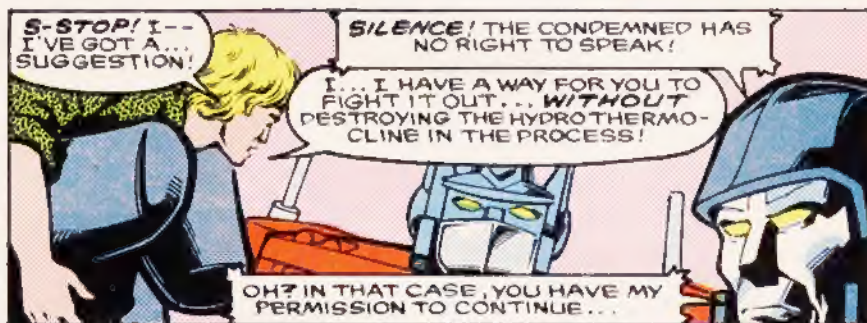
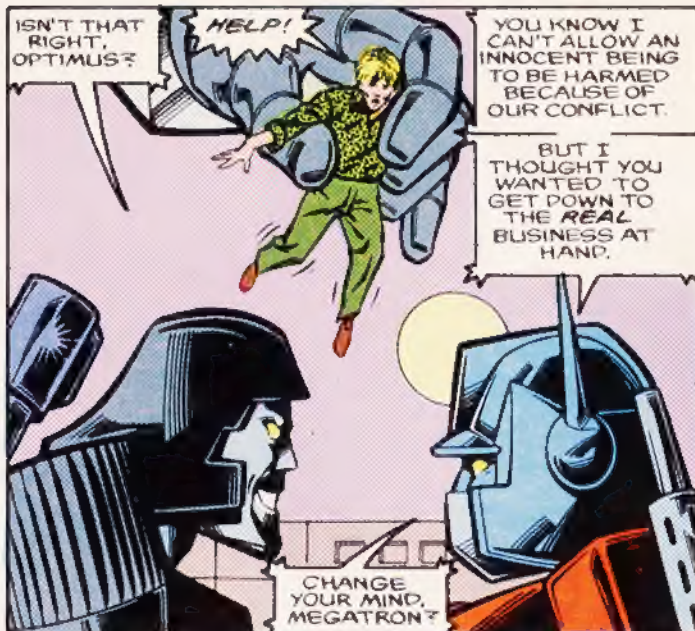
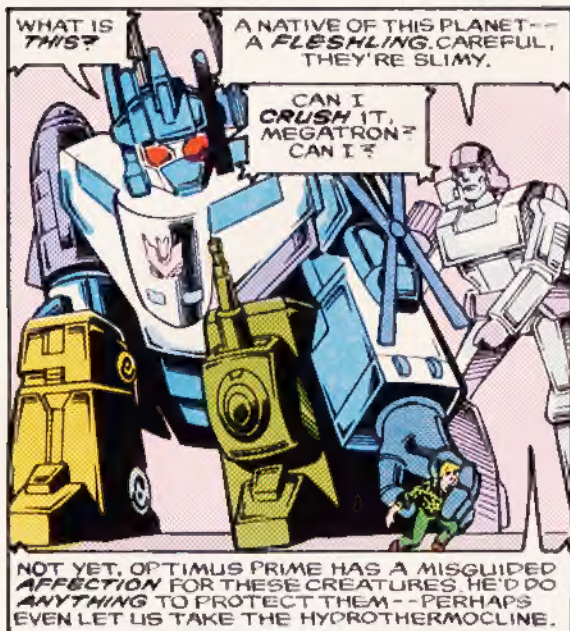
NOT YET.
MEGATRON--
NOT WHEN THE
PROTECTOBOTS
CAN COMBINE
TO FORM...

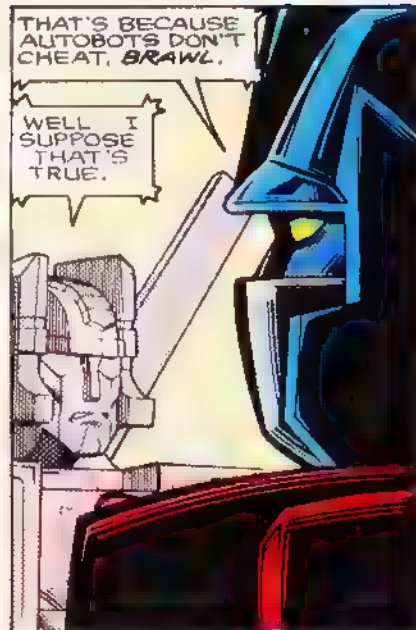


...DEFENSOR!









WE'LL PLAY... BUT ONLY IF WE UP THE STAKES IN THIS WAY-- WHICHEVER OF US TWO IS DESTROYED IN THE GAME MUST ALSO BE DESTROYED IN REAL LIFE.

WELL, OPTIMUS PRIME? DO YOU AGREE?



TOO MUCH TO RISK IF I DON'T RESTRICT OUR BATTLE TO THE GAME

YES, MEGATRON AGREED.

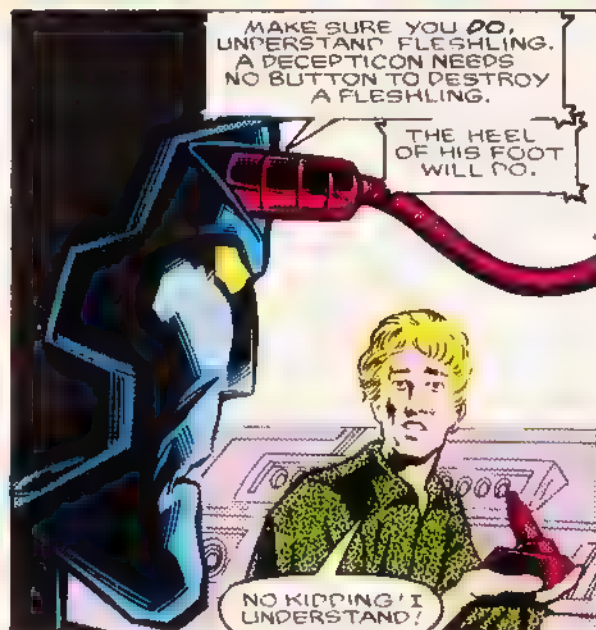
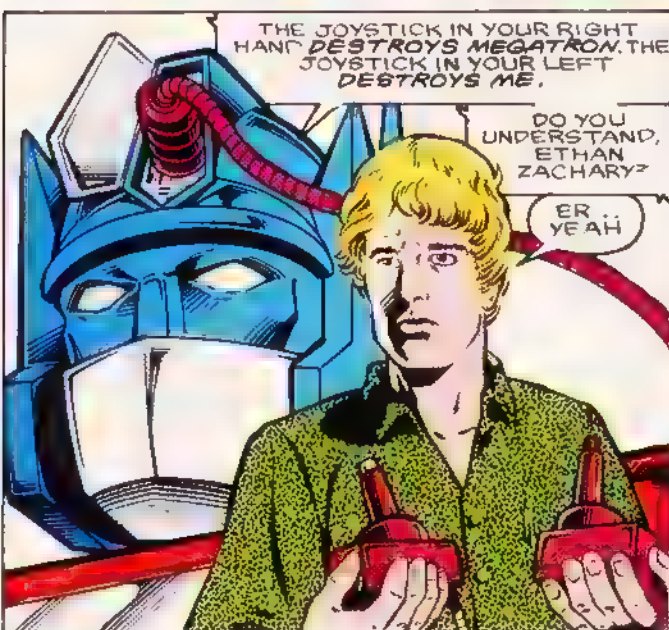


SOON...

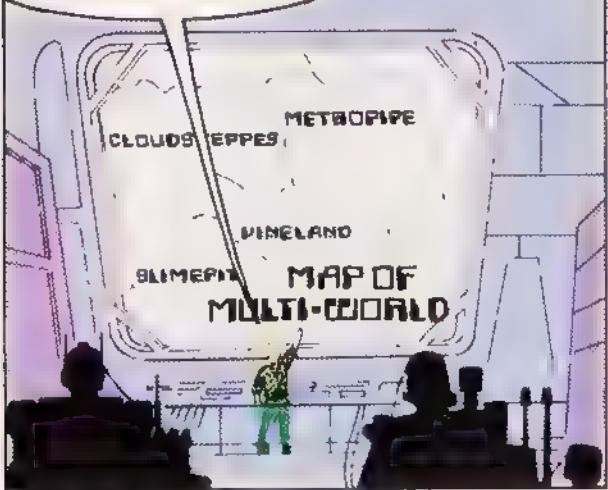
I'VE HOOKED YOU ALL IN. NOW YOU'LL EACH BE ABLE TO CONTROL YOUR OWN CHARACTER IN THE GAME

AND MEGATRON AND I HAVE CONNECTED OURSELVES IN TO THE JOYSTICKS YOU HOLD IN YOUR HANDS, ETHAN ZACHARY.

WE'VE RIGGED OURSELVES, SO THAT THE PUSH OF A BUTTON WILL TRIGGER A MASSIVE, LETHAL EXPLOSION IN ONE OF US.

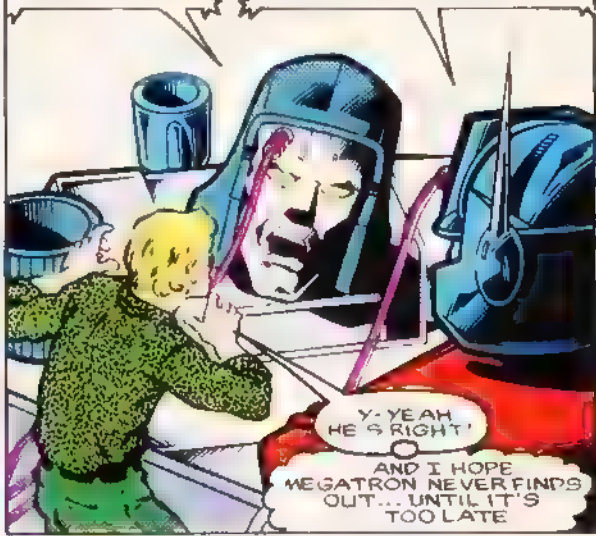


THIS IS THE GAME MAP
EACH SIDE HAS ITS OWN
STARTING POINT THERE
ARE CREATURES IN THE
GAME WHO ARE POTENTIAL
ALLIES AND ENEMIES-



WHO ARE THEY,
FLESHLING? I
TELL ME!

PART OF PLAYING
THE GAME IS FINDING OUT,
MEGATRON



Y-YEAH
HE'S RIGHT!
AND I HOPE
MEGATRON NEVER FINDS
OUT... UNTIL IT'S
TOO LATE

NOW, WHEN I SWITCH ON THE
GAME OPTIMUS PRIME AND
MEGATRON HAVE ARRANGED
FOR ALL OF YOU TO HAVE YOUR
OPTICAL SENSORS SWITCHED
OFF

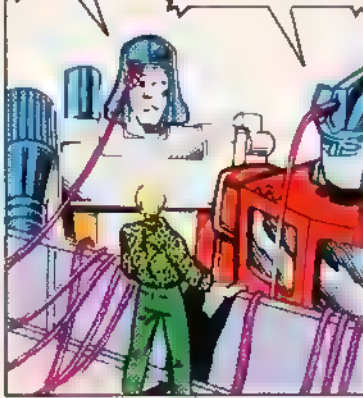
YOU'LL ONLY BE ABLE TO SEE
WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR OWN
MINDS FROM YOUR INDIVIDUAL
POINTS OF VIEW
WITHIN THE GAME



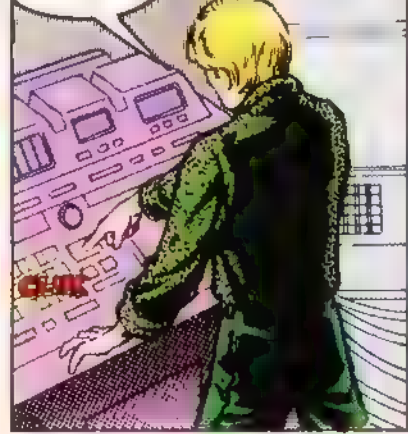
ONLY I WILL
BE ABLE TO
SEE EVERY-
THING ON
THE BIG
SCREEN

ENOUGH
BABBLE
FLESHLING!

YOU MAY
BEGIN THE
GAME, ETHAN
ZACHARY



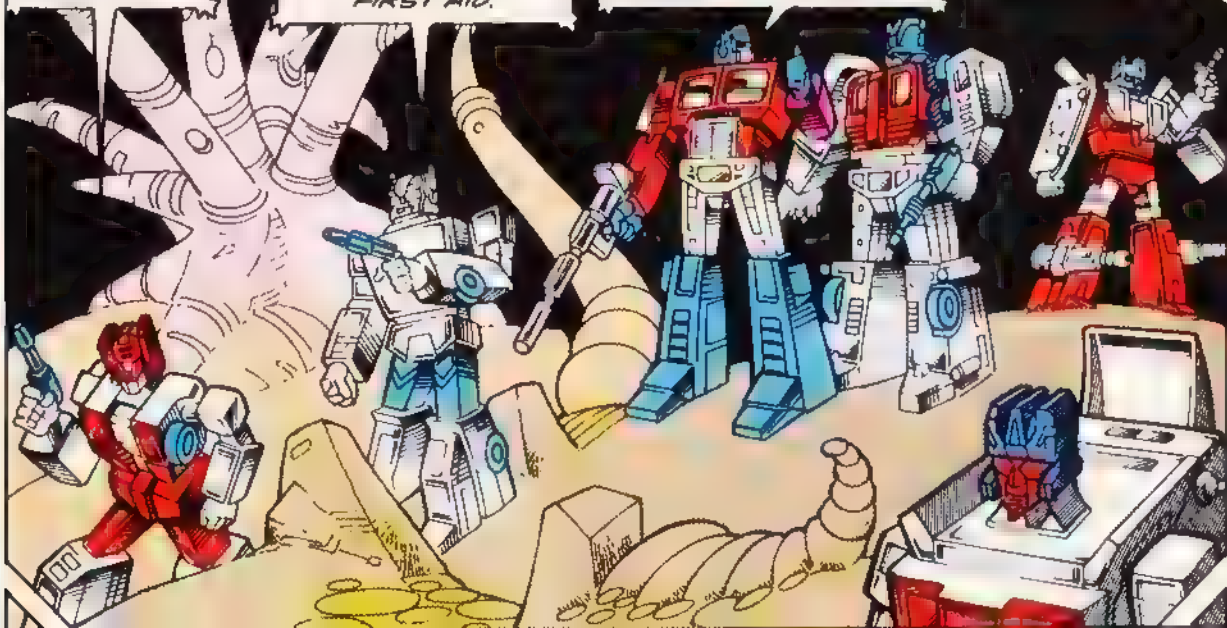
THE GAME
BEGINS



WE MUST BE IN
MULTI-WORLD,
STREETWISE.

YEAH... THIS LOOKS
NOTHING LIKE EARTH
OR CYBERTRON,
FIRST AID.

I WILL LEAD, HOTSPOT.
HAVE YOUR
PROTECTOBOTS FOLLOW!



MARVEL®



28th Mar. 87
No 106 32p
US \$1.00 CAN \$1.50

THE TRANSFORMERS

FORMERS



HEROIC
AUTOBOT



...AND ONE SHALL **DIE!**

YOU ARE THE QUARRY.
SHOULD YOU FALL,
THE GAME ENDS

WE PROTECTOBOTS
WILL FAN OUT BEFORE
YOU AND PICK OFF ANY
POTENTIAL DANGER
FIRST

GIVEN THE
SITUATION
I SUPPOSE
YOU'RE
RIGHT

BUT REMEMBER, HOTSPOT
EVEN THOUGH THIS WORLD
ISN'T REAL, WE ARE STILL
AUTOBOTS. WE MUST REMAIN
TRUE TO OUR PRINCIPLES

JUST AS ON EARTH, IT IS OUR
DUTY TO AVOID HARMING THIS
WORLD AND ITS INHABITANTS.

UNDERSTOOD,
OPTIMUS

PROTECTOBOTS--
TRANSFORM AND
ROLL OUT!

ELSEWHERE
IN MULTI-
WORLD...

YOU'RE THE
BOSS, MEGATRON.
LEAD THE WAY

YEAH,
VORTEX
CAN'T
WAIT TO
FOLLOW

FOOLS

ONSLAUGHT-- YOU AND YOUR
COMBATONS MUST HAVE SLAG
FOR CEREBO-CIRCUITS

IF I AM
DESTROYED
WE ALL
LOSE!

BONK!

YOU LEAD THE WAY-- AND TAKE
YOUR CREW OF COWARDS
WITH YOU!

I'LL ALLOW YOU
TIME TO DESTROY
THE PROTECTOBOTS--
AND THEN I'LL
FOLLOW!

LET NOTHING
STOP YOU!

ELSEWHERE IN THE GAME

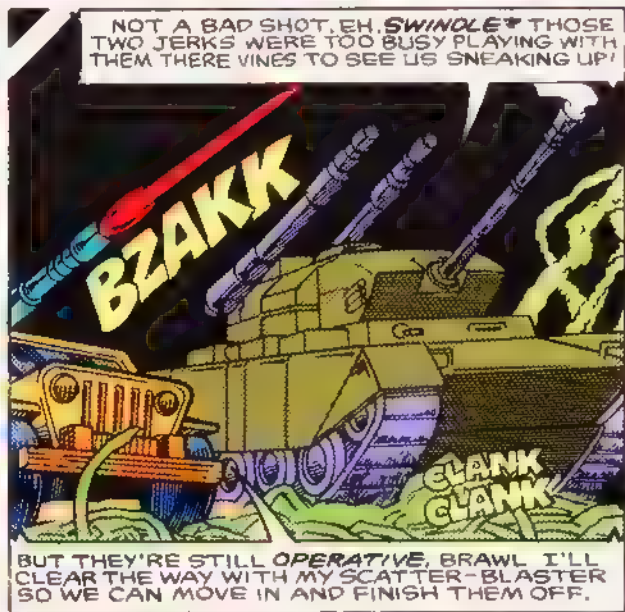
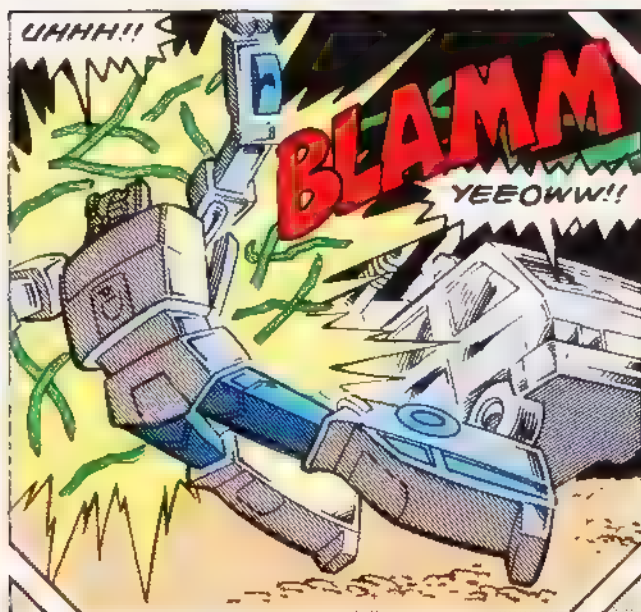
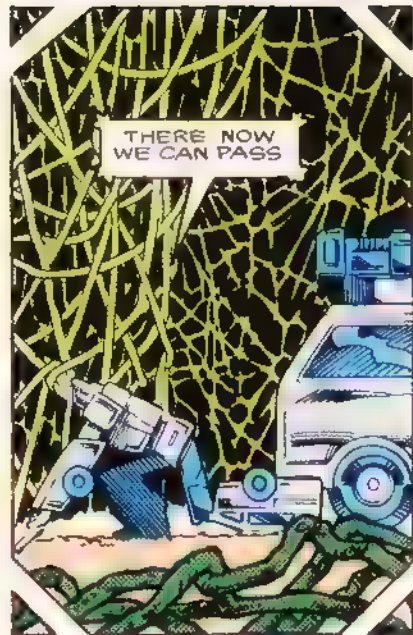
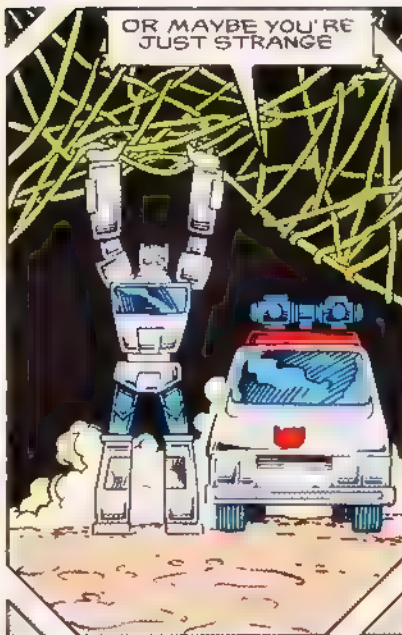
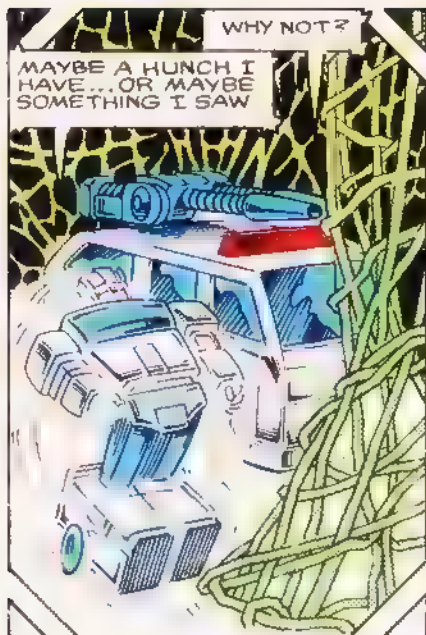
THIS MUST BE WHAT
THE MAP CALLED
VINELAND, STREETWISE

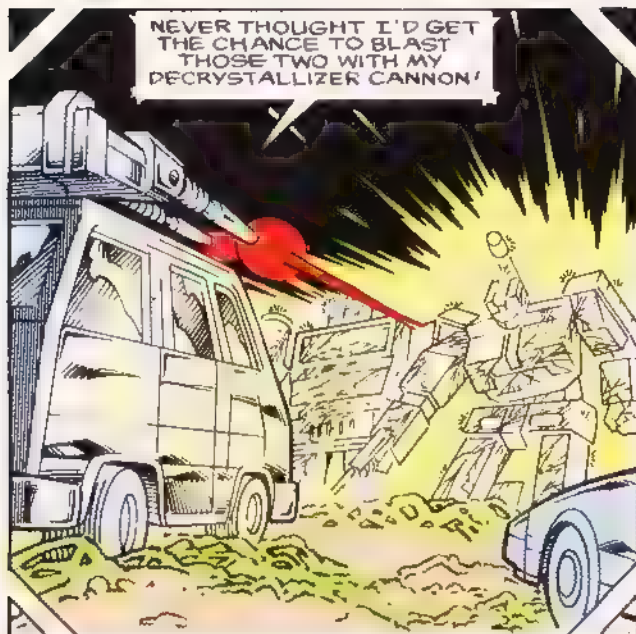
A GOOD PLACE
FOR AN AMBUSH.
FIRST AID: KEEP
YOUR HEADLIGHTS
PEELED

WE'RE
BLOCKED!

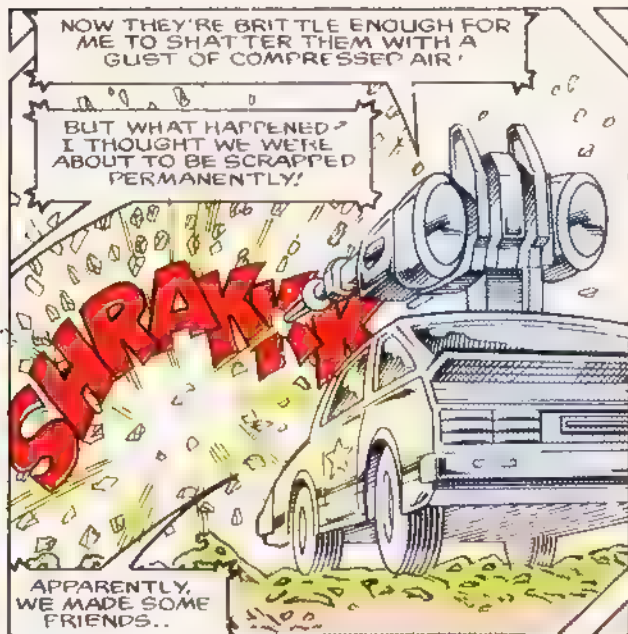
I'LL BLAST
A PATH
THROUGH!

NO!





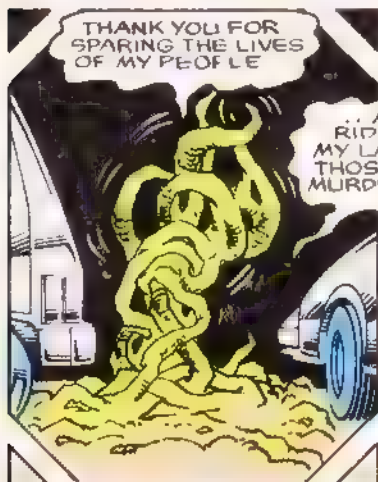
NEVER THOUGHT I'D GET THE CHANCE TO BLAST THOSE TWO WITH MY DECRYSTALLIZER CANNON!



NOW THEY'RE BRITTLE ENOUGH FOR ME TO SHATTER THEM WITH A GUST OF COMPRESSED AIR!

BUT WHAT HAPPENED? I THOUGHT WE WERE ABOUT TO BE SCRAPPED PERMANENTLY!

APPARENTLY, WE MADE SOME FRIENDS...



THANK YOU FOR SPARING THE LIVES OF MY PEOPLE

...AND RIDDING MY LAND OF THOSE TWO MURDERERS



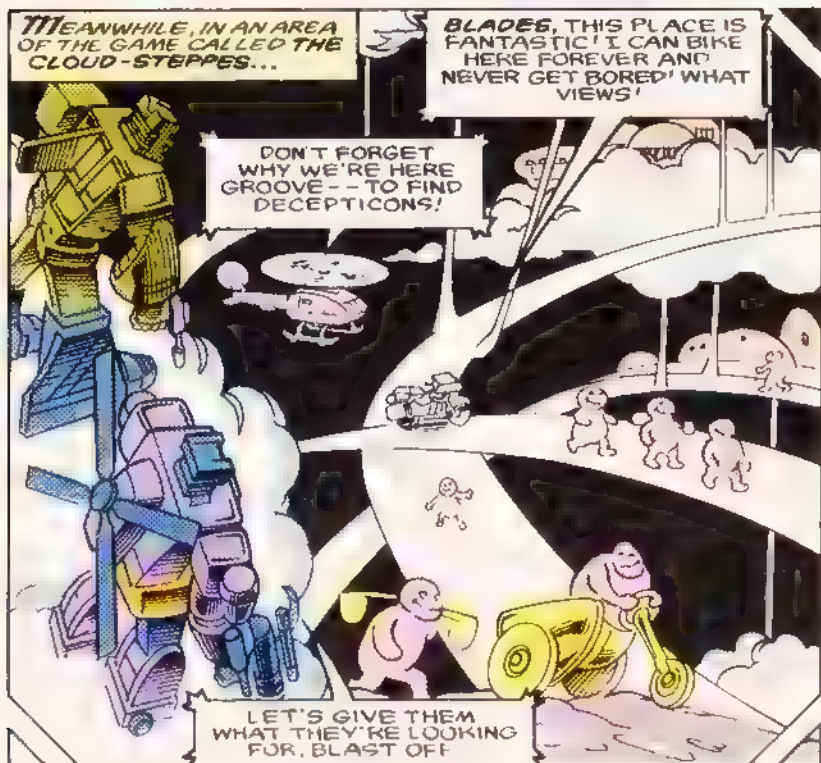
THE REMAINDER OF YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH VINELANT SHALL GO UNIMPED



ALL RIGHT!

TWO DOWN, FOUR TO GO!

C MON, PROTECTOBOTS, KEEP IT UP!

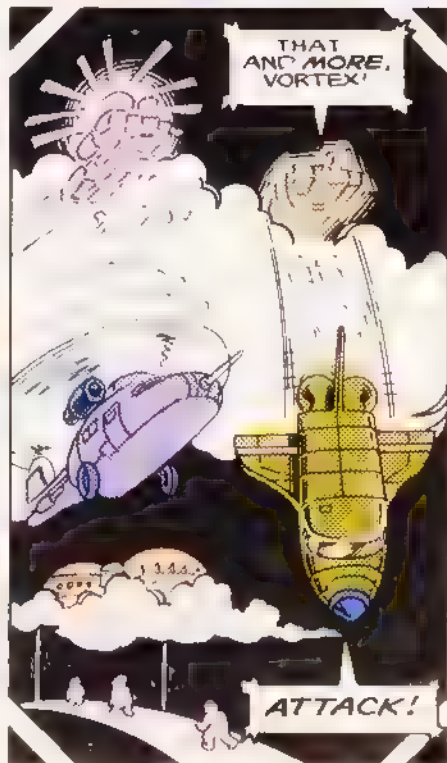


MEANWHILE, IN AN AREA OF THE GAME CALLED THE CLOUD-STEPPES...

BLADES, THIS PLACE IS FANTASTIC! I CAN BIKE HERE FOREVER AND NEVER GET BORED! WHAT VIEWS!

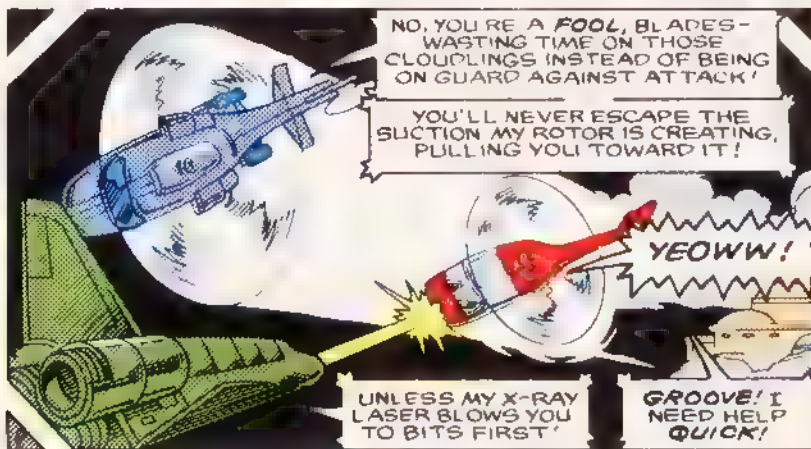
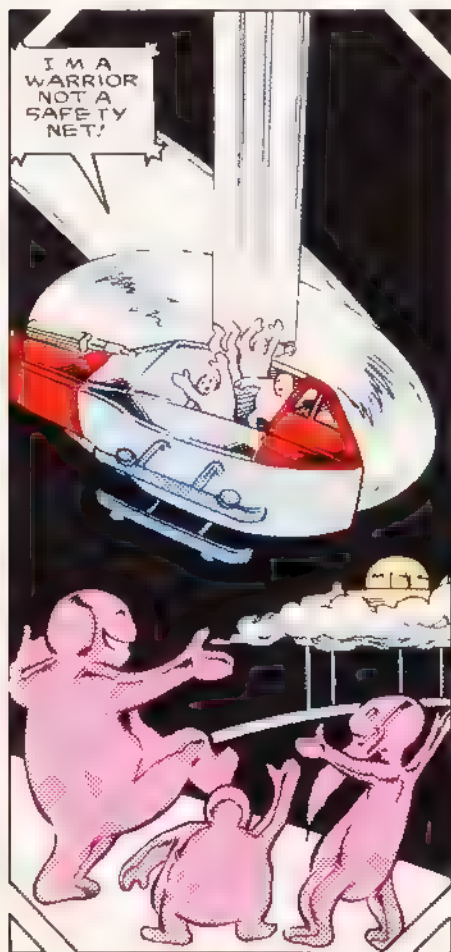
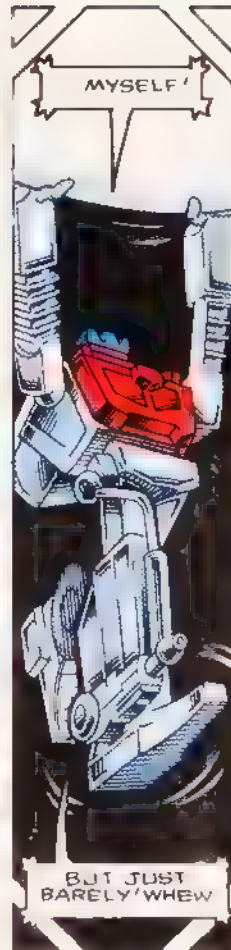
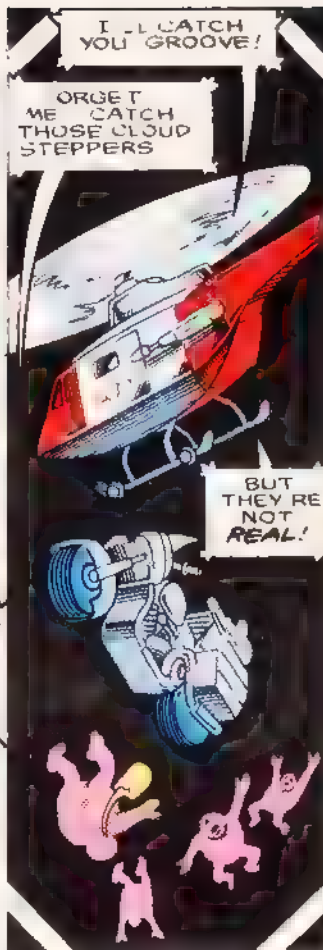
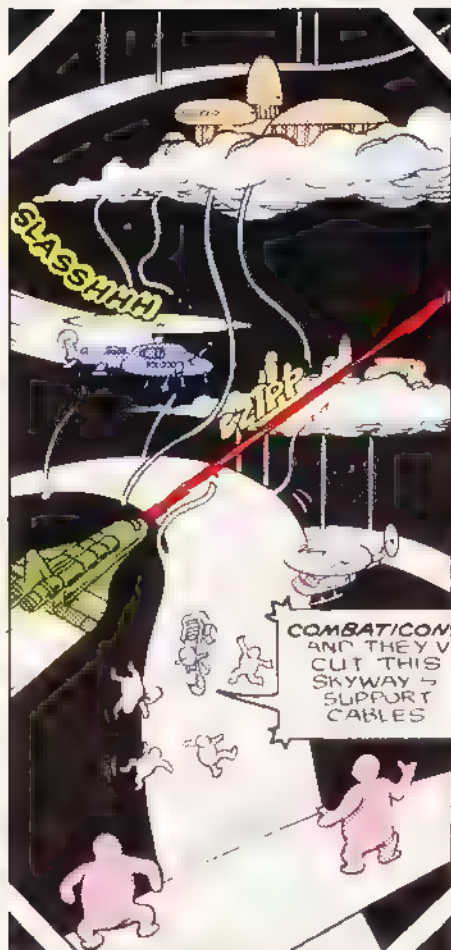
DON'T FORGET WHY WE'RE HERE GROOVE -- TO FIND DECEPTICONS!

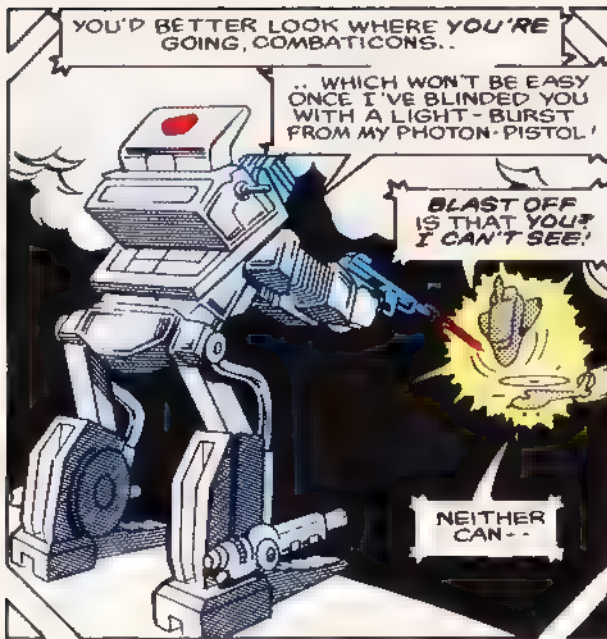
LET'S GIVE THEM WHAT THEY'RE LOOKING FOR, BLAST OFF



THAT AND MORE, VORTEX!

ATTACK!





YOU'D BETTER LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING, COMBATICONS..

.. WHICH WON'T BE EASY ONCE I'VE BLINDED YOU WITH A LIGHT-BURST FROM MY PHOTON-PISTOL!

BLAST OFF IS THAT YOU? I CAN'T SEE!

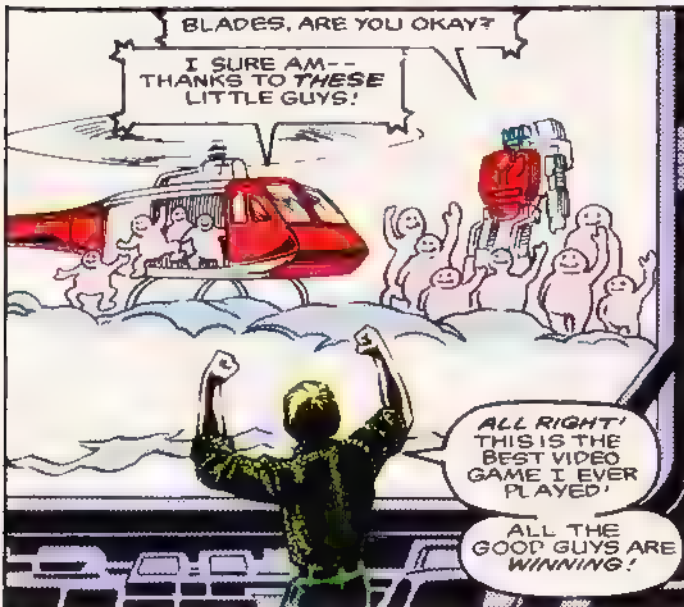
NEITHER CAN--



--URRGKKK!!

UNNGGHH!

TRUNCH

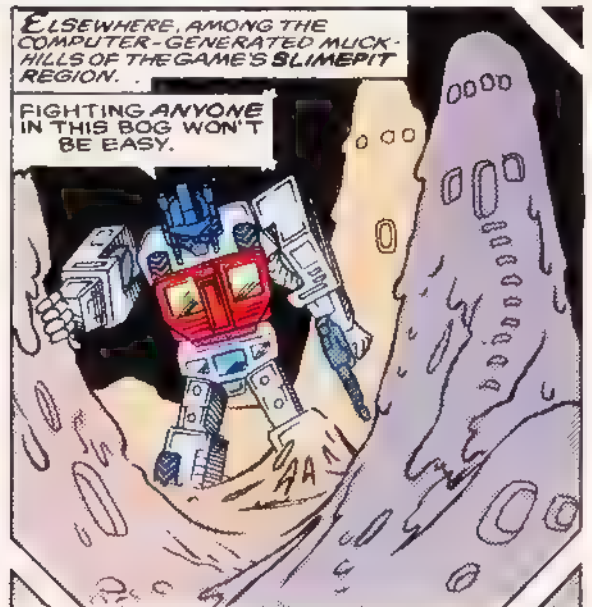


BLADES, ARE YOU OKAY?

I SURE AM-- THANKS TO THESE LITTLE GUYS!

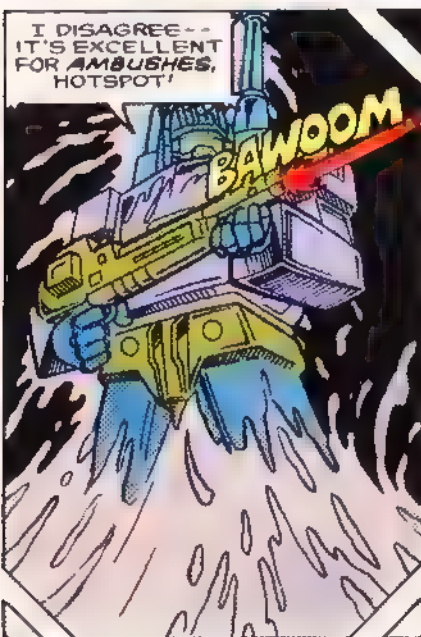
ALL RIGHT! THIS IS THE BEST VIDEO GAME I EVER PLAYED!

ALL THE GOOD GUYS ARE WINNING!



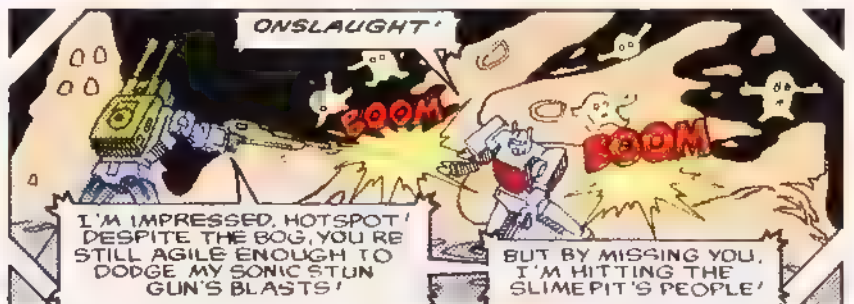
ELSEWHERE, AMONG THE COMPUTER-GENERATED MUCK-HILLS OF THE GAME'S SLIMEPIT REGION..

FIGHTING ANYONE IN THIS BOG WON'T BE EASY.



I DISAGREE-- IT'S EXCELLENT FOR AMBUSHES, HOTSPOT!

BAWOOM



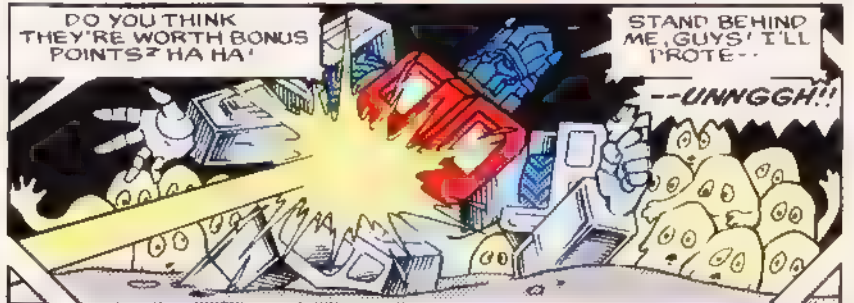
ONSLAUGHT!

BOOM

BOOM

I'M IMPRESSED, HOTSPOT! DESPITE THE BOG, YOU'RE STILL AGILE ENOUGH TO DODGE MY SONIC STUN GUN'S BLASTS!

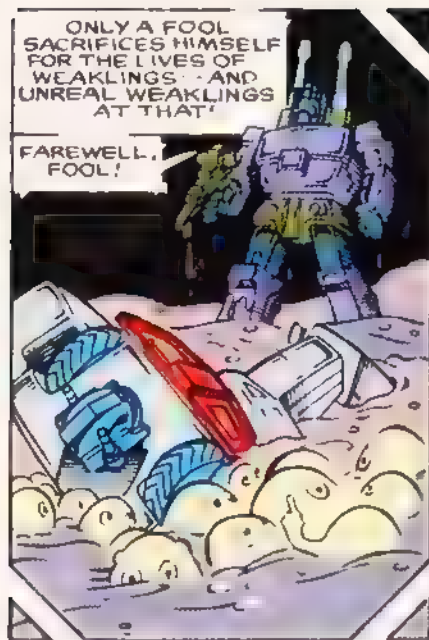
BUT BY MISSING YOU, I'M HITTING THE SLIMEPIT'S PEOPLE!



DO YOU THINK THEY'RE WORTH BONUS POINTS? HA HA!

STAND BEHIND ME, GUYS! I'LL PROTE--

--UNNGGHH!!



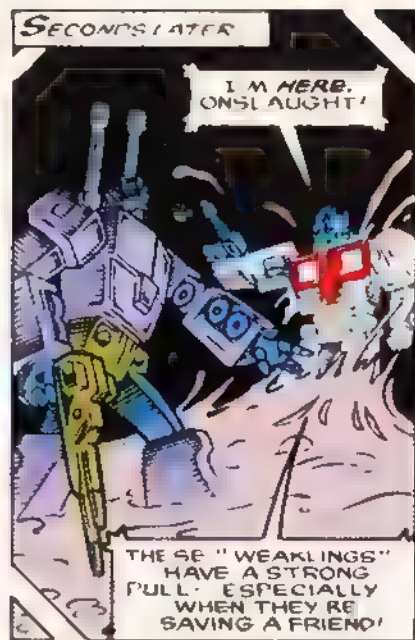
ONLY A FOOL
SACRIFICES HIMSELF
FOR THE LIVES OF
WEAKLINGS - AND
UNREAL WEAKLINGS
AT THAT!

FAREWELL,
FOOL!



HUH?
WHERE'D
HE GO?

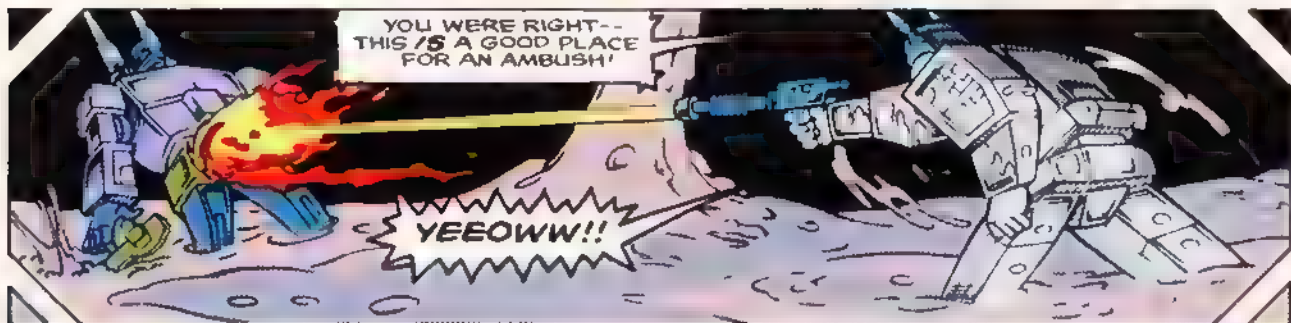
SPLOOOSH



SECONDS LATER

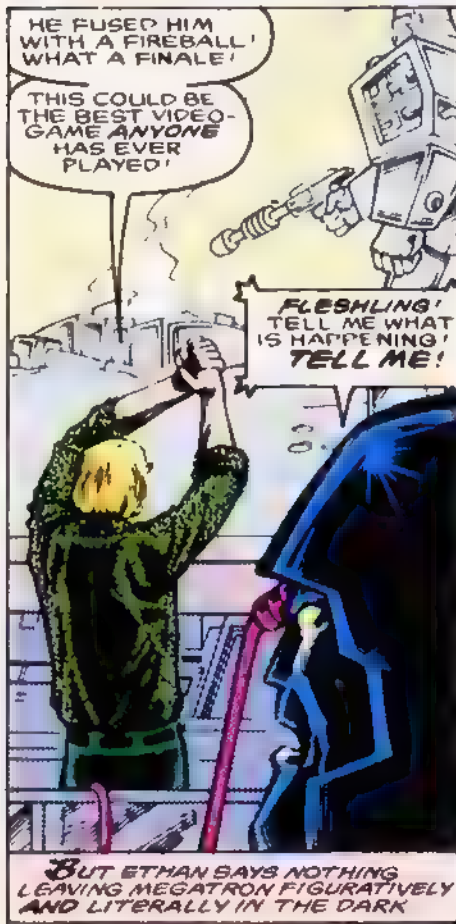
I'M HERB.
ONSLAUGHT!

THESE "WEAKLINGS"
HAVE A STRONG
PULL - ESPECIALLY
WHEN THEY'RE
SAVING A FRIEND!



YOU WERE RIGHT--
THIS IS A GOOD PLACE
FOR AN AMBUSH!

YEEOWW!!

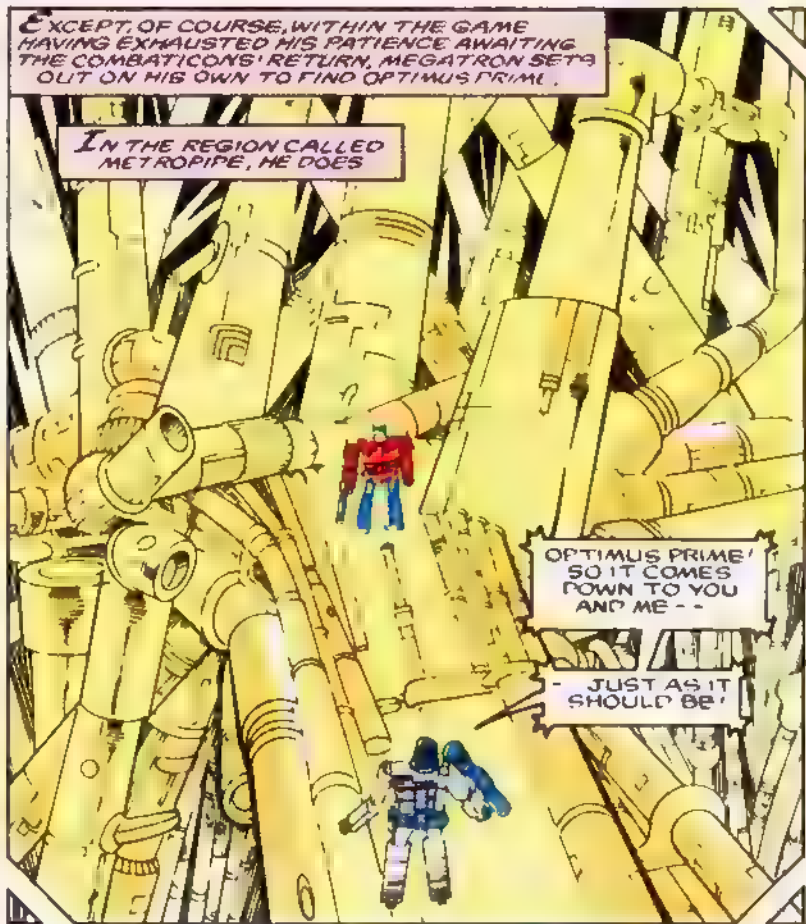


HE FUSED HIM
WITH A FIREBALL!
WHAT A FINALE!

THIS COULD BE
THE BEST VIDEO-
GAME ANYONE
HAS EVER
PLAYED!

FLESHLING!
TELL ME WHAT
IS HAPPENING!
TELL ME!

BUT ETHAN SAYS NOTHING
LEAVING MEGATRON FIGURATIVELY
AND LITERALLY IN THE DARK



EXCEPT, OF COURSE, WITHIN THE GAME
HAVING EXHAUSTED HIS PATIENCE AWAITING
THE COMBATICONS' RETURN, MEGATRON SETS
OUT ON HIS OWN TO FIND OPTIMUS PRIME.

IN THE REGION CALLED
METROPIPE, HE DOES

OPTIMUS PRIME!
SO IT COMES
DOWN TO YOU
AND ME--

- JUST AS IT
SHOULD BE!

I'M NOT AS ALONE AS YOU THINK, MEGATRON.

THIS IS DEFENSOR--

--THE SUM TOTAL OF ALL THE PROTECTOBOTS COMBINED INTO ONE.

MY COMBATICONS..

... WHERE ARE MY COMBATICONS?!

CAREFUL, BOSS, YOU CAN'T SEE WHAT YOU'RE HITTING!

YOU FOOLS! I DON'T CARE IF I SMASH YOU INTO MOLECULAR DUST IN THE REAL WORLD!

I NEED YOU IN THE GAME!

I... UH, WAS INCINERATED...

I CRASHED.

I CRUMBLLED.

I..

YOU'VE ALL FAILED ME!

IF I AM TO DIE YOU'RE ALL COMING WITH ME!

ARRGH! B-BOSS. WAY TO SALVAGE WIN INPUT WORD AFTER DEATH GIVES YOU SECOND CHANCE... SAW IT WHEN I... ORIGINALLY SCOUTED THIS PLACE

IF WHAT VORTEX SAYS IS TRUE, THEN THERE IS A WAY TO CHEAT!

ER, THE GAME, MEGATRON--IT'S NOT OVER YET. YOU'RE STILL ALIVE.

I CERTAINLY AM, AM I NOT, FLESHLING

YES... LET'S GET THIS GAME OVER WITH.

WITHIN THE GAME.

YOUR FUSION CANNON'S BLAST CANNOT PENETRATE MY FORCE FIELD, MEGATRON

YOU'VE HAD YOUR SHOT. NOW IT'S MY TURN

I MUST PRETEND TO BE SCARED

CAREFUL, DEFENSOR--
MEGATRON IS NEVER
HELPLESS!

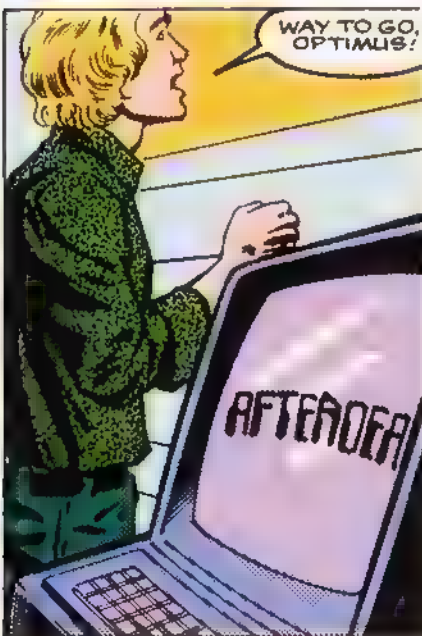
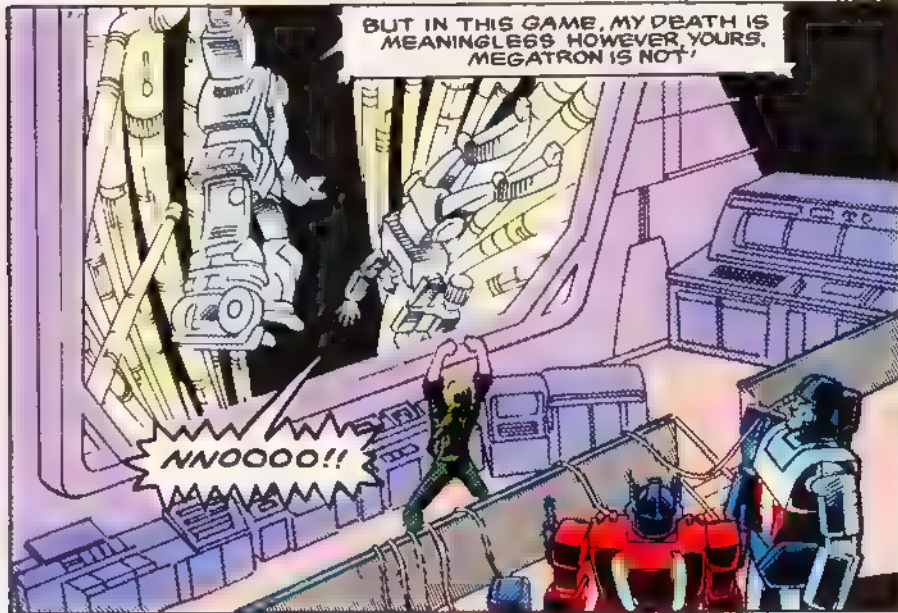
AND
NEVER
BEATEN.

THEN THIS
WILL BE A NEW
EXPERIENCE FOR
YOU, MEGATRON!

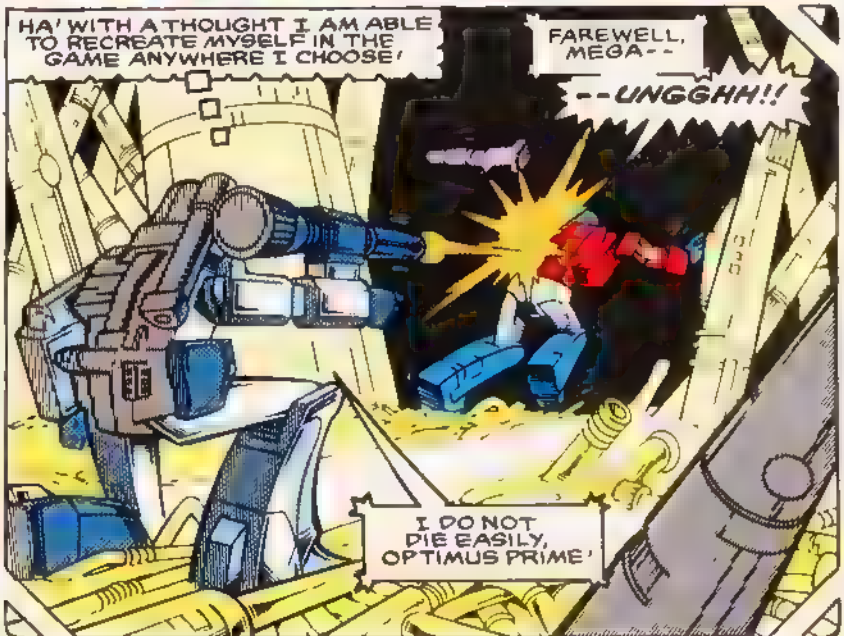
THAT FIREBALL--
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?

THE BRIDGE IS
COLLAPSING!

YOU IDIOT!
WE'LL BOTH
PLUNGE TO
OUR DEATH!



WAY TO GO,
OPTIMUS!





MEGATRON--YOU...YOU'RE ALIVE!

OPTIMUS--
WHAT
HAPPENED?

I THOUGHT
YOU HAD WON!

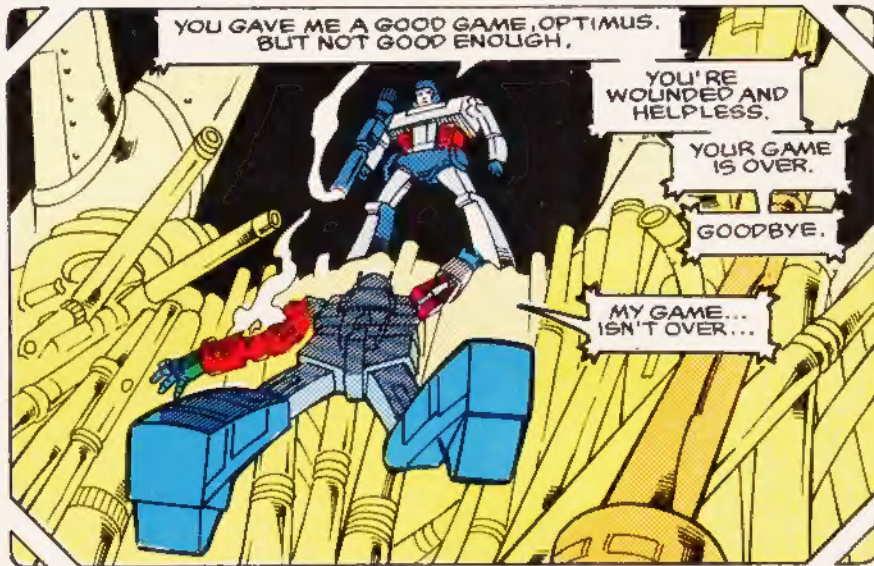
WHERE'D
MEGATRON
COME FROM?

I...I DON'T KNOW!



WHAT'S GOING
ON? I SAW
MEGATRON
PLUNGE TO
HIS DEATH!

THERE
MUST BE
A MAL-
FUNCTION...



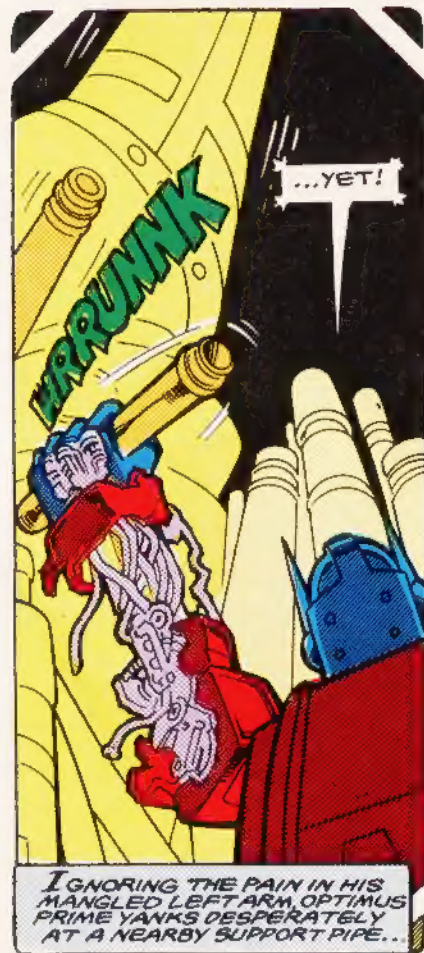
YOU GAVE ME A GOOD GAME, OPTIMUS.
BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

YOU'RE
WOUNDED AND
HELPLESS.

YOUR GAME
IS OVER.

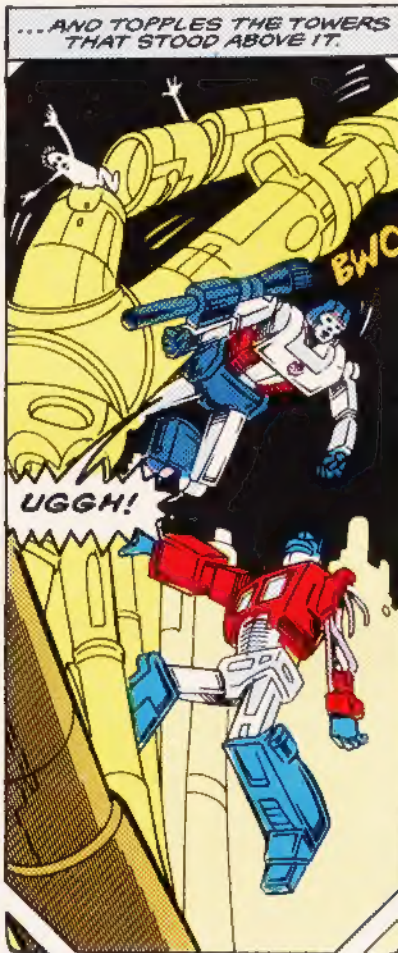
GOODBYE.

MY GAME...
ISN'T OVER...



...YET!

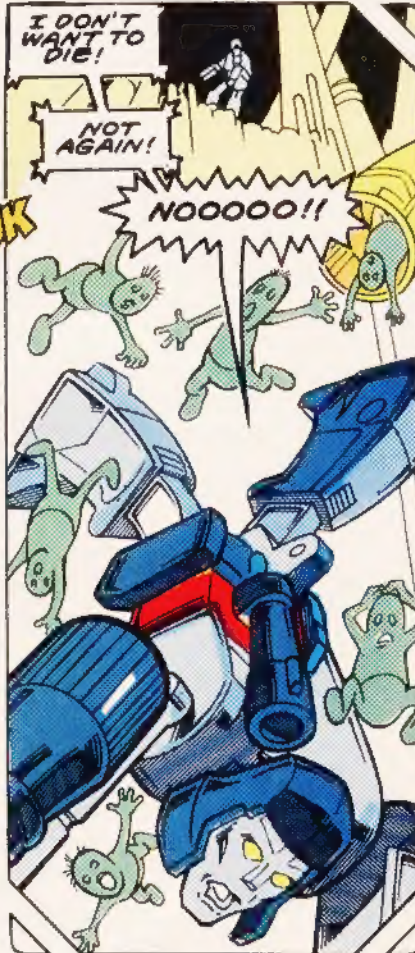
IGNORING THE PAIN IN HIS
MANGLED LEFT ARM, OPTIMUS
PRIME YANKS DESPERATELY
AT A NEARBY SUPPORT PIPE...



...AND TOPPLES THE TOWERS
THAT STOOD ABOVE IT.

UGGH!

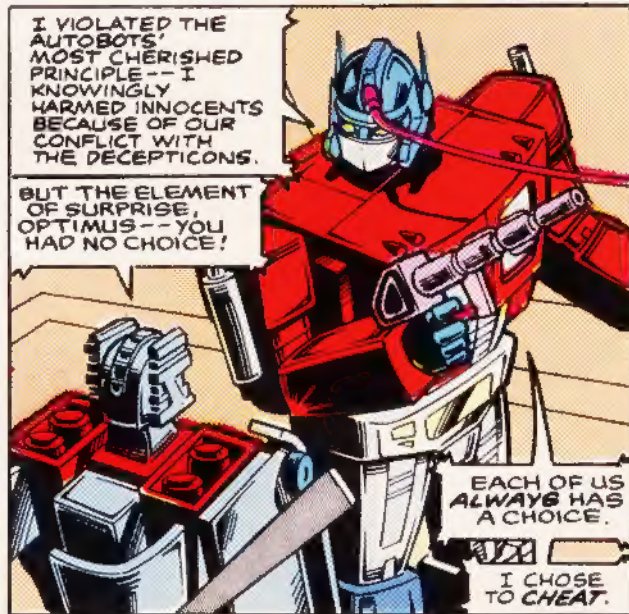
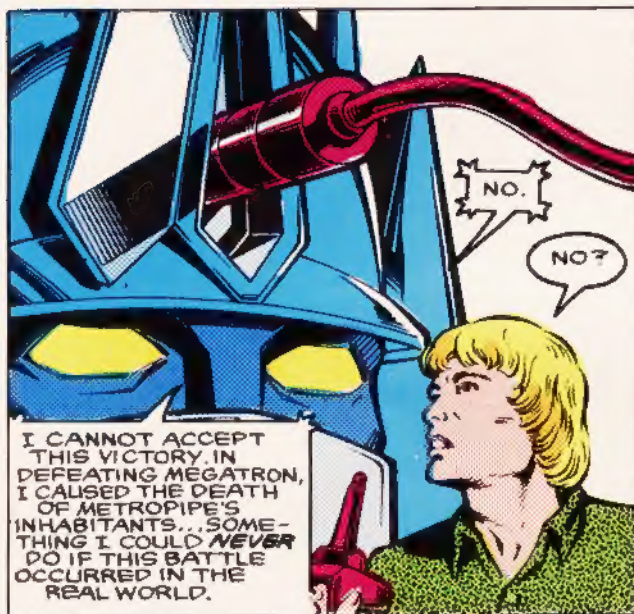
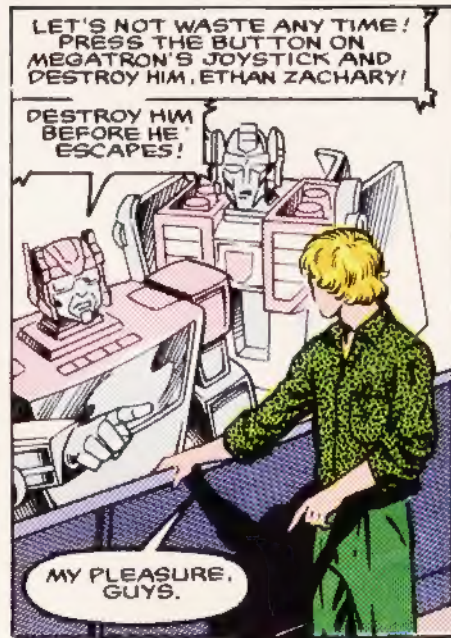
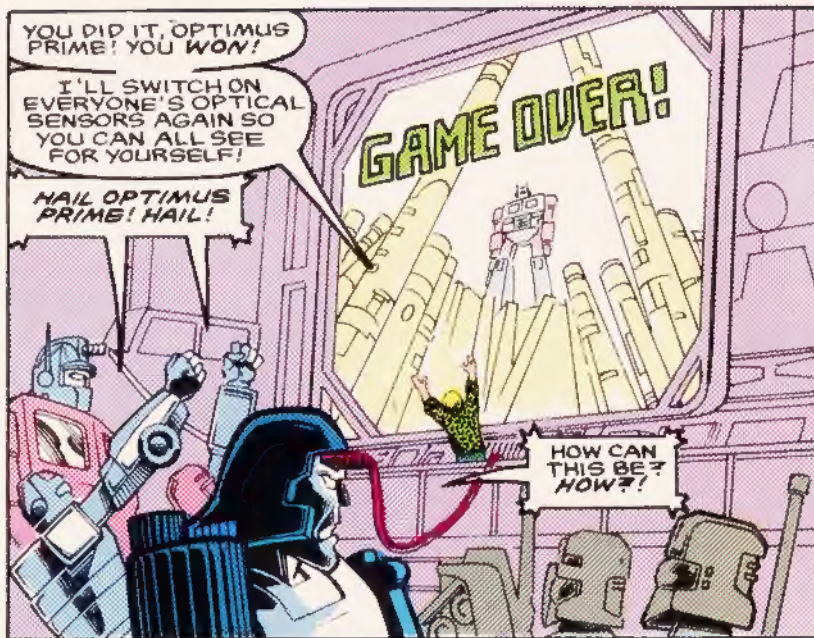
BWONK



I DON'T
WANT TO
DIE!

NOT
AGAIN!

NOOOOO!!



GAME OVER!

KBOOOOM



**MINUTES PASS IN SILENCE.
UNTIL FINALLY...**

**I... I KILLED HIM
I KILLED
OPTIMUS PRIME!**

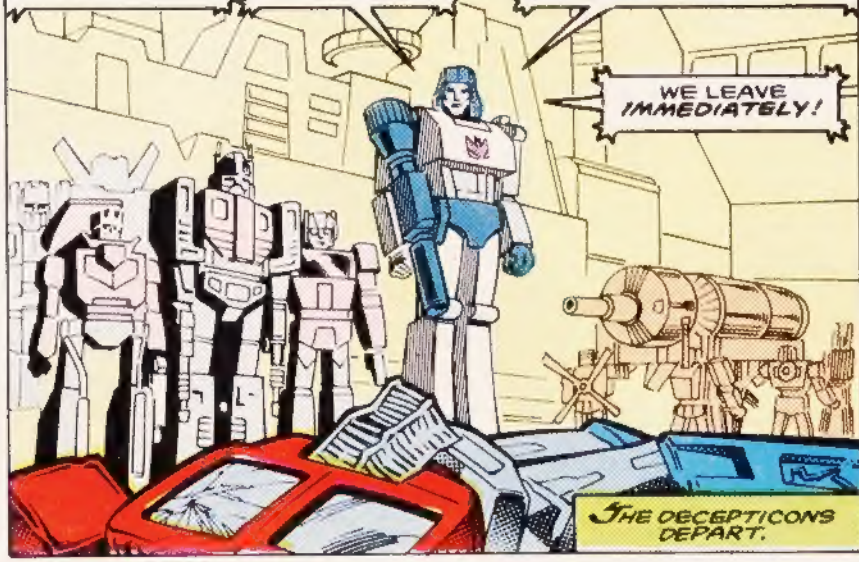


**YOU'RE REALLY
DEAD, OLD
FRIEND.**

**I CAN'T SAY
I'LL MISS YOU.
HEH HEH.**

**COMBATICONS, PREPARE
THE HYDROTHERMOCLINE
FOR TRANSPORT!**

**WE LEAVE
IMMEDIATELY!**



**THE DECEPTICONS
DEPART.**

**QUICKLY, QUIETLY, THE PROTECTOBOTS
GATHER UP THE REMAINS OF THEIR FALLEN
LEADER AND THEY, TOO, DEPART.**

**THE RETURN TRIP TO THE ARK
TAKES THEM SEVERAL HOURS.**



**ALL THE WAY BACK, NONE CAN
THINK OF A WORD TO SAY.**

NOT A WORD.

**ETHAN ZACHARY IS
ALSO SILENCED BY
WHAT HE HAS JUST
SEEN.**

**HIS GRIEF IS NO LESS
REAL THAN THE
PROTECTOBOTS'.**

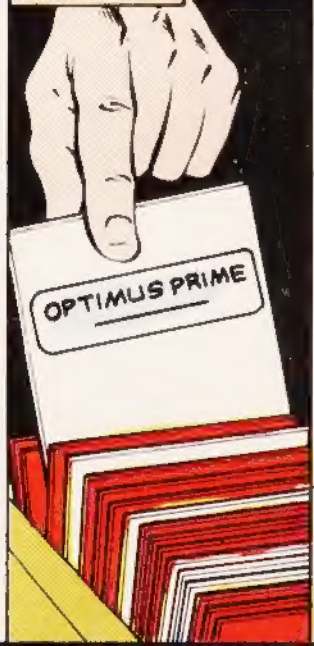


**AFTER ALL, OPTIMUS
PRIME WAS THE GREAT-
EST, MOST NOBLE BEING
HE HAD EVER MET IN
HIS ENTIRE LIFE...**



**... OR PLAYED IN A
COMPUTER GAME.**

**BUT AT LEAST HE CAN
TAKE SOME SMALL
COMFORT IN THE
THOUGHT...**



**... THAT IN THE REALM
OF MULTI-WORLD, FOR
A CHARACTER SUCH
AS OPTIMUS PRIME,
THERE IS ALWAYS...**



**... THE AFTER-
DEATH.**